

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL POSS DUPE

PAGE 01 PHNOM 01710 01 OF 02 281042Z

70

ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 AF-06 ARA-06 EUR-12 NEA-09 ISO-00 PM-03 NSC-05

SP-02 SS-15 RSC-01 H-01 L-02 PA-01 PRS-01 CIAE-00

INR-07 NSAE-00 AID-05 IO-10 EB-07 SR-02 ORM-01 SAJ-01

NIC-01 /109 W

----- 061834

P R 280930Z JAN 75

FM AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 9105

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMCONSUL BIEN HOA

AMCONSUL CAN THO

AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

AMCONSUL HONG KONG

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

AMEMBASSY MANILA

AMEMBASSY MONTEVIDEO

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

AMEMBASSY PARIS

USLO PEKING

AMEMBASSY SAIGON

AMEMBASSY SEOUL

AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

AMEMBASSY TAIPEI

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

AMCONSUL UDORN

USIA WASHDC

USMISSION USUN

AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON

AMEMBASSY COTONOU

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY RANGOON

CGFMFPAC

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 PHNOM 01710 01 OF 02 281042Z

CGUSARSUPTHAI

CINCPAC

CINCPACAF
CINCPACFLT
CDR USA CINCPAC SUPPORT GROUP FT SHAFTER HI
CNO
COMNAVINTCOM
COMSEVENTHFLT
COMUSMACTHAI
COMUSSAG
CTG SEVEN NINE PT FOUR
DIA WASHDC
III MAF
7/13 AF

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 PHNOM PENH 1710

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINT, PINS, PFOR, MOPS, ECON, CB
SUBJECT: KHMER REPORT--JANUARY 28, 1975

GENERAL

1. TWO MEKONG RIVER CONVOYS FROM SOUTH VIETNAM ARRIVED IN PHNOM PENH, THE FIRST SINCE THE KC OFFENSIVE BEGAN JANUARY 1. IT WAS A NOTABLE BREAKTHROUGH AS KHMER AIR ARTILLERY AND NAVAL FORCES WORKED TOGETHER AGAINST STIFF ENEMY RESISTANCE TO GET THE CONVOYS THROUGH. FIGHTING NORTH AND NORTHWEST OF PHNOM PENH WAS HEAVY, BUT ELSEWHERE AROUND THE CAPITAL THE LEVEL OF ACTIVITY SLACKENED SOMEWHAT. THE KC CONTINUE, HOWEVER, TO ROCKET PHNOM PENH AND POCHENTONG AIRPORT REGULARLY; THE LATTER TO LITTLE EFFECT. THE KC HAVE STIPPED UP THEIR ACTIVITY IN SEVERAL PROVINCIAL LOCATIONS, BUT HAVE NOT THUS FAR POSED ANY SERIOUS CHALLENGES IN THESE AREAS. IN PHNOM PENH, THE POPULATION AND THE DIPLOMATIC COMMUNITY HAVE BY AND LARGE REACTED CALMLY TO THE KC OFFENSIVE. RICE PRICES INCREASED BUT MOST OTHER PRODUCTS REMAINED STABLE OR DECLINED DURING THE WEEK.

POLITICAL (INTERNAL)
CONFIDENTIAL
CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 PHNOM 01710 01 OF 02 281042Z

2. DESPITE DAILY KC ROCKETING OF PHNOM PENH, POCHENTONG AND ENVIRONS, THE ATMOSPHERE IN THE CAPITAL REMAINS CALM AND DAILY LIFE PROCEEDS IN RELATIVELY NORMAL FASHION. THE TENSION AND FEAR IN THE CITY IS NOT COMPARABLE TO THAT WHICH PREVIALED DURING LAST YEAR'S DRY SEASON OFFENSIVE. ALTHOUGH SEVERAL EMBASSIES HAVE DISPLAYED SOME SIGNS OF NERVOUSNESS, THE DIPLOMATIC COMMUNITY BY AND LARGE HAS MAINTAINED ITS COMPOSURE. THE FRENCH IN PARTICULAR ARE REACTING SENSIBLY. A ROCKET

LANDED IN THE GROUNDS OF THE PRINCIPAL FRENCH LYCEE IN PHNOM PENH (SEE LAST WEEK'S KHMER REPORTL, RESULTING IN THE TEMPORARY SUSPENSION OF CLASSES, BUT THE SCHOOL RE-OPENED AFTER A FEW DAYS. LAST YEAR A SIMILAR ROCKET ATTACK AGAINST THE SAME SCHOOL CAUSED MUCH OF THE FRENCH COMMUNITY TO LEAVE PHNOM PENH IN A STATE OF NEAR PANIC. THIS YEAR, THERE HAS BEEN NO SUCH EXODUS.

POLITICAL (EXTERNAL)

3. CONGRESS WILL BE REQUESTED TO LIFT THE CEILING ON AID AND TO PROVIDE SUPPLEMENTAL MILITARY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (MAP) FUNDS OF ABOUT \$220 MILLION FOR CAMBODIA. THIS REQUEST HAS NOT YET BEEN FORMALLY SUBMITTED, BUT IT HAS ALREADY DRAWN THE FIRE OF THE KC PROPAGANDA MEDIA. (SEE GRUNK/FUNK SECTION BELOW).

GRUNK/FUNK

4. KC IN-COUNTRY PROPAGANDA SHARPLY CRITICIZED U.S. ASSISTANCE TO THEGKR THIS WEEK. ONE SUCH BROADCAST SAID THAT THE "FORD ADMINISTRATION IS DEMANDING THAT THE U.S. CONGRESS GIVE ADDITIONAL AID OF MORE THAN 200 MILLION DOLLARS" TO THE GKR AND APPEALED TO "PEACE AND JUSTICE-LOVING AMERICANS AND AMERICAN POLITICIANS TO PUT AN END TO THE CRIMINAL AGGRESSIVE AND INTERFERING ACTIVITIES...". IT ACCUSED THE U.S. OF "KHMERIZING"THE WAR AND ATTACKED U.S. EFFORTS TO HELP KEEP PHNOM PENH SUPPLIED WITH ESSENTIAL COMMODITIES.

5. GRUNK DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER KHIEU SAMPHAN AND
CONFIDENTIAL
CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 04 PHNOM 01710 01 OF 02 281042Z

INTERIOR MINISTER HOU YUON BOTH ADDRESSED STANDARD "APPEALS" TO THE CAMBODIAN POPULATION THIS WEEK, URGING THEM TO RISE UP AGAINST THE GKR AND IF NECESSARY TO COME OVER TO THE "LIBERATED ZONE"WHERE EVERYONE "ENJOYS SECURITY, HAS RICE TO EAT AND LIVES AMONG FRIENDS". KHIEU SAMPHAN ALSO URGED FOREIGN DIPLOMATIC PERSONNEL TO EVACUATE PHNOM PENH; IF THEY STAY, GRUNK/FUNK CANNOT TAKE RESPONSIBILITY FOR ANY INJURIES OR INCIDENTS THAT MIGHT OCCUR. (SIMILAR ADMONITIONS TO THE DIPLOMATIC COMMUNITY WERE ALSO MADE LAST DRY SEASON.)

6. THE MILITARY COMMENTARIES BY THE OTHER
IIIIIII LAID HEAVY STRESS ON ALL
EGED KC CUSSESSES ON THE LOWER
MEKONG, AND THE "FRIGHTENED AND CONFUSED" STATE OF THE GKR AS A RESULT. THEIR TONE CHANGED TOWARD THE END OF THE WEEK, HOWEVER, WITH THE SUCCESSFUL PASSAGE OF THE FIRST MEKONG RIVER CONVOY FROM SOUTH VIETNAM TO PHNOM PENH

(SEE MILITARY). KC PROPAGANDA REACTED BY LASHING OUT AT BOTH THE SOUTH VIETNAMESE AND THAI GOVERNMENTS FOR ALLEGEDLY CONDUCTING BOMBING RAIDS ALONG THE LOWER MEKONG. COMMENT: THE TONE OF THIS PROPAGANDA SOUNDS AS IF THE KC ARE SEEKING AN ALIBI FOR THE SUCCESSFUL PASSAGE OF THE CONVOYS.

7. GRUNK FOREIGN MINISTER SARIN CHHAK ARRIVED IN AFGHANISTAN JANUARY 25 FOR A "FRIENDLY VISIT". INITIAL INDICATIONS ARE THAT HE WILL BE GIVEN VIP TREATMENT BY THE GOA, WHICH WAS A CO-SPONSOR OF THE PRO-GRUNK UN RESOLUTION.

8. BOTH SIHANOUK AND GRUNK PRIME MINISTER PENN NOUTH SENT MESSAGES FROM PEKING TO KHIEU SAMPHAN THIS WEEK, CONGRATULATING HIM ON THE "BRILLIANT VICTORIES" SCORED

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 PHNOM 01710 02 OF 02 290335Z

70

ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 AF-06 ARA-06 EUR-12 NEA-09 IO-10 ISO-00 PM-03

NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 RSC-01 H-01 L-02 PA-01 PRS-01

CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 AID-05 EB-07 SR-02 ORM-01

SAJ-01 NIC-01 /109 W

----- 074212

P R 280930Z JAN 75

FM AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 9106

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMCONSUL BIEN HOA

AMCONSUL CAN THO

AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

AMCONSUL HONG KONG

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

AMEMBASSY MANILA

9/AMEMBASSY MONTEVIDEO 0062

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

AMEMBASSY PARIS
USLO PEKING
AMEMBASSY SAIGON
AMEMBASSY SEOUL
AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE
AMEMBASSY TAIPEI
AMEMBASSY TOKYO
AMCONSUL UDORN
USIA WASHDC
USMISSION USUN NY
AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE
AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON
AMEMBASSY COTONOU
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY RANGOON
CGFMFPAC
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 PHNOM 01710 02 OF 02 290335Z

CGUSARSUPTHAI
CINCPAC
CINCPACAF
CINCPACFLT
CDR USA CINCPAC SUPPORT GROUP FT SHAFTER HI
CNO
COMNAVINTCOM
COMSEVENTHFLT
COMUSMACTHAI
COMUSSAG
CTG SEVEN NINE PT FOUR
DIA WASHDC
III MAF
7/13 AF

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 2 OF 2 PHNOM PENH 01710

BY THE KC THUS FAR IN THE DRY SEASON.

ECONOMIC

9. RICE STOCKS ON HAND IN PHNOM PENH ON JANUARY 27
TOTALLED 18.1 THOUSAND METRIC TONS (M/T) OR A 33-DAY SUPPLY
AT THE NEWLY ESTABLISHED DISTRIBUTION LEVEL OF 545 TONS
PER DAY. ACTUAL DISTRIBUTION DURING THE PAST SEVEN DAYS
AVERAGED 421.7 M/T. THERE HAVE BEEN NO ARRIVALS OF RICE
VIA THE MEKONG OR THE TONLE SAP RIVERS DURING THE PAST
WEEK. LOCAL HARVESTS IN PHNOM PENH AREA PROVIDED 114 TONS
FOR DISTRIBUTION.

10. FOLLOWING INTENSIVE ENEMY ACTIVITY WEST OF SIEM
REAP AND THE CUTTING OF ROUTE 6 BETWEEN SIEM REAP AND THE

THAI BORDER, 2,240 REFUGEE FAMILIES HAVE ARRIVED IN SIEM REAP. THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT IS CARRYING OUT A SURVEY OF THEIR STATUS WHILE CATHOLIC RELIEF SERVICE AND CARE ARE PROVIDING EMERGENCY RELIEF.

11. THE RETAIL PRICE OF IMPORTED (PL-480) RICE INCREASED BY 23 PERCENT IN PHNOM PENH MARKETS DURING THE PAST WEEK, AND CHARCOAL ROSE BY 11 PERCENT, BUT MOST OTHER MAJOR COMMODITIES HELD STEADY OR DECLINED. BATTAMBANG RICE, CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 PHNOM 01710 02 OF 02 290335Z

PORK, BEEF, FRUITS, KEROSENE AND MOST LOCALLY MANUFACTURED GOODS WERE UNCHANGED. OCEAN FISH DECLINED 22 PERCENT AND SALT 11 PERCENT. MOST VEGETABLES SHOWED SUBSTANTIAL DECREASES. IN GENERAL, IT APPEARS THAT SEASONAL FACTORS WERE PREDOMINANT IN LOCAL MARKETS DURING THE PAST WEEK (JANUARY IS NORMALLY A LOW POINT IN THE ANNUAL PRICE CYCLE), DESPITE THE CURRENT ENEMY OFFENSIVE AND CONTINUED INTERDICTION OF SUPPLY LINES. THE BLACK MARKET EXCHANGE RATE DECREASED SLIGHTLY DURING THE WEEK, FROM 1,770 TO 1,750 RIELS PER DOLLAR. THE OFFICIAL EXCHANGE RATE WAS UNCHANGED AT 1,650 RIELS PER DOLLAR. GOLD WAS UP SLIGHTLY, FROM 164 TO 171 DOLLARS PER TROY OUNCE.

12. THE JANUARY 26 MEKONG RIVER CONVOY (SEE MILITARY) BROUGHT POL FOR THE MILITARY AND 1,000 CUBIC METERS OF MOGAS FOR THE CIVIL SECTOR. UNDER RECENTLY IMPOSED LEVELS OF RATIONING WHEREBY CONSUMPTION HAS BEEN CURTAILED BY APPROXIMATELY 50 PERCENT, CIVIL STOCKS OF FUEL NOW ONHAND ARE ADEQUATE FOR ALMOST 30 DAYS IN ALL CATEGORIES.

MILITARY

13. TWO MEKONG RIVER CONVOYS ARRIVED IN PHNOM PENH ON JANUARY 23 AND JANUARY 26, THE FIRST SINCE DECEMBER 28. IN BREAKING THROUGH THE KC EFFORTS TO BLOCKAGE THE MEKONG, THE CONVOYS BROUGHT BADLY NEEDED AMMUNITION AND POL TO THE CAPITAL. THEY ARRIVED BASICALLY INTACT, WITH NO LOSS OF CARGO, ALTHOUGH ENEMY FIRE FROM THE RIVER BANKS WAS OFTEN VERY HEAVY. SOME OF THE COMMERCIAL VESSELS WERE DAMAGED AND THE KHMER NAVY WHICH ESCORTED THE CONVOY, TOOK LIGHT PERSONNEL CASUALTIES AND LOST TWO ESCORT CRAFT. IMPROVED COORDINATION, AS WELL AS EXCELLENT AIR SUPPORT, RESULTED IN THE PASSAGE OF THE SECOND CONVOY BEING CONSIDERABLY SMOOTHER THAN THE FIRST.

14. THE KC CONTINUE TO FIRE 107MM ROCKETS ON A DAILY BASIS TOWARD PHNOM PENH AND POCHENTONG AIRPORT. FANK ESTIMATES FOR THE PERIOD JANUARY 1-24 (AND WE BE-

LIEVE THEIR FIGURES ARE ROUGHLY ACCURATE) A TOTAL OF
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 04 PHNOM 01710 02 OF 02 290335Z

ALMOST THREE-HUNDRED 107MM ROCKETS HAVE BEEN FIRED
AT THE CAPITAL AND ITS AIRPORT, KILLING ABOUT 50 PERSONS
AND WOUNDING OVER 200. ONE AIRPLANE HAS BEEN DESTROYED
BUTH OTHERWISE THE DAMAGE AT POCHENTONG HAS BEEN MINOR.
THE AIRPORT CONTINUES TO FUNCTION, BUT SOME INTERNATIONAL
FLIGHTS INTO PHNOM PENH HAVE BEEN CANCELLED. FANK IS
ATTEMPTING TO CLEAR OUT THE AREAS EAST AND NORTHWEST
OF THE CITY WHERE THE ROCKETS ARE COMING FROM, BUT THUS
FAR THESE EFFORTS HAVE MET WITH STRONG ENEMY RESISTANCE.

15. THE LEVEL OF MILITARY ACTIVITY HAS GENERALLY
DIMINISHED AROUND PHNOM PENH, BUT THERE IS STILL HEAVY
FIGHTING IN THE FANK 7TH DIVISION AREA WHICH PROTECTS
THE NORTHERN AND NORTHWESTERN APPROACHES TO THE CITY
AS WELL AS AN IMPORTANT POL STORAGE FACILITY. THE ROAD
BETWEEN THE 7TH DIVISION COMMAND POST AND ONE OF THE BRIGADES
IS CUT ANF FRIENDLY POSITIONS REGULARLY RECEIVE GROUND
PROBES AND ATTACKS BY FIRE. BOTH SIDES ARE BEING
WORN DOWN BY THE FIGHTING. THE POL STORAGE FACILITY HAS
BEEN SHELLED ALMOST DAILY, AND ON JANUARY 23 A FIRE
BROKE OUT WHICH DESTROYED A SMALL AOUNT OF FUEL. THE
FIRE WAS SUBSEQUENTLY BROUGHT UNDER CONTROL. ON ROUTE 1
SOUTHEAST OF PHNOM PENH, FANK HAS REPORTED HEAVY ENEMY LOSSES,
BUT PROGRESS IN REDUCING THE STRETCH OF ROAD (ABOUT
35-40 KILOMETERS) CONTROLLED BY THE KC HAS BEEN SLOW.
KC PRESSURE ON FRIENDLY POSITIONS IN THE NEAK LUONG AREA
ON THE LOWER MEKONG IS HEAVY, BUT DEFENDERS THERE ARE
HOLDING, AND INFLECTING HEAVY CASUALTIES.

16. KC FORCES ARE BEGINNING TO APPLY MORE PRESSURE
ON VARIOUS PROVINCIAL LOCATIONS. ROUTE 6 IN NORTH-
WESTERN CAMBODIA BETWEEN SIEM REAP AND THE THAI BORDER
REMAINS CUT. COMMUNIST TROOPS ARE ALSO HARASSING FANK
POSITIONS ALONG ROUTE 5 BELOW BATTAMBANG AND HAVE DES-
TROYED AT LEAST ONE BRIDGE. THE ROAD, HOWEVER, IS STILL
OPEN. AT THE COASTAL CITY OF KAMPOT IN SOUTHWESTERN
AMBODIA, THE KC ATTACKED THE DEFENSE PERIMETER AND
PENETRATED IT AT SEVERAL LOCATIONS. FANK IS SENDING
REINFORCEMENTS FROM ELSEWHERE IN THAT REGION TO CONTAIN THESE
ATTACKS.

DEAN
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 05 PHNOM 01710 02 OF 02 290335Z

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: POLITICAL SUMMARIES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 28 JAN 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: GolinoFR
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975PHNOM01710
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750032-0246
From: PHNOM PENH
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750114/aaaaamir.tel
Line Count: 386
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 8
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: GolinoFR
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 19 MAY 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <19 MAY 2003 by BoyleJA>; APPROVED <20 MAY 2003 by GolinoFR>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
05 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: KHMER REPORT--JANUARY 28, 1975 GENERAL
TAGS: PINT, PINS, PFOR, MOPS, ECON, CB
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006